

CURRICULUM VITAE
WILLIAM ALLAN JACKSON

EDUCATION: Recently enrolled in TV production courses at Pensacola Junior College
San Jose State College, San Jose, California
AB Journalism

PRESENT ADDRESS: 612 South First Street (904) 453-6260
Pensacola, Florida 32507

PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH: 1 February 1915, Oakland, California

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1976 to present:

Self-employed editorial consultant for governmental agencies, educational institutions, private industry. Edited two scientific international symposium proceedings, prepared training instructions for computer program, edited proposals for shipbuilding project and hospital computer programs.

1974 to 1976:

Recalled from retirement by U.S. Information Agency to serve as Communications Officer for the Office of the Mayor, District of Columbia Bicentennial Commission. Part-time editor, foreign desk, Washington Post.

1971 to 1974:

Editorial writer, features writer, copy editor, wire editor, Pensacola News-Journal, Pensacola, Florida. Also did special photos for Page One layouts.

1974:

Adjunct professor of African Politics, The University of West Florida. The purpose of the course was to prepare students for off-campus study programs in Africa. The indoctrination course covered the political, social, and economic problems of Africa.

1968 to 1970:

Branch Public Affairs Officer, Lubumbashi (Katanga Province), Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo). Directed the activities of the American Cultural Center and assisted Africans in qualifying for American study programs at the university level. Traveled extensively throughout Southern Africa. Retired in August 1970 from the U.S. Foreign Service, U. S. Information Agency.

1967 to 1968:

Completed two assignments for the U. S. Information Agency: Directed a book distribution program initiated by Vice President Hubert Humphrey for Indonesia. Worked with Indonesian schools and universities in determining their bibliographic and reference-source needs. Wrote and edited a book describing the U. S. AID Program to Iran--the first major technical assistance program offered by the U.S. to a developing nation.

1965 to 1967:

Chief Press Officer, Joint U. S. Public Affairs Office, Saigon. The office served as media contact for the U. S. Embassy.

1963 to 1965:

Public Affairs Officer, U. S. Embassy, Dahomey (now Benin). Directed an American Cultural Center and administered an exchange program for students and technicians in the U.S. and at other African institutions. Traveled extensively by air and road throughout West Africa.

1962 to 1963:

Director, American Cultural Center, Bordeaux, and Consular, U. S. Consulate, Bordeaux. Conducted extensive third-country Cultural Affairs Program for African students attending the University of Bordeaux.

1959 to 1962:

Editor/writer, Voice of America Latin American Desk, U. S. Information Agency, Washington, DC.

1958 to 1959:

Press/Publications Officer and Information Officer, U. S. Embassy, Djakarta.

1957 to 1958:

Field Operations Officer and acting Cultural Affairs Officer, U. S. Embassy, Saigon.

1955 to 1957:

Press Officer, American Embassy, London.

1954 to 1955:

Information Officer, American Embassy, Brussels.

1951 to 1954:

Press Officer, American Embassy, Tehran (first post after joining the U. S. Department of State).

1950 to 1951:

Reporter, Vallejo Times Herald, Vallejo, California.

1945 to 1950:

Reporter, photographer, and copy writer, Oakland Post Enquirer, Oakland, California (paper folded in 1950).

1942 to 1945:

War correspondent, International News Service (formerly owned by Hearst). Covered the South Pacific (Guadalcanal to Bougainville) at the outset; transferred to Europe for assignments in coverage of all major campaigns from North Africa to the Eastern European front. Returned to the United States following the end of the war. *Also served as Foreign Correspondent.*

1937 to 1942:

Writer, photographer, and rewrite editor, Oakland Post Enquirer.

LANGUAGES:

French

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

National Press Club

Charter Member, Pensacola Press Club

Overseas Press Club

American Association of Foreign Service Officers

Awards

Hearst Medal of Honor

commendations from Navy & War Depts.

Distinguished Service, Vietnam (awarded by U.S. Information Agency)

Allan Jackson, Oakland's photographer

SUN SEP - 3 1995

WAR IS HELL — but a photogenic one, especially in victory. Mankind's bloodiest conflict, World War II, produced its share of unforgettable images.

Alfred Eisenstaedt's shot of a kiss in Times Square, New York the day Japan surrendered, Joe Rosenthal's picture of the raising of Old Glory on Iwo Jima and Dorothea Lange's photographs from the home front helped imprint the names of those photographers into the annals of their craft.

But another important wartime photojournalist, the East Bay's Allan Jackson, left a legacy like the Unknown Soldier.

On April 26, 1945, on a bombed out bridge over the Elbe River near Torgau, Germany, Jackson captured on film the death knell of fascism in Europe. There, at the vanguard of the western front, a group of American soldiers of the First Army's Second Division reached out their hands to their Soviet counterparts advancing from the east.

Jackson climbed into position, clicked the shutter to preserve the handshake for history and sent his film off to Paris with a colleague, his day's work done.

In order to gain military clearance to cover the war for the International News Service of the Hearst chain of newspapers, Jackson agreed to join the heavily censored "still photo rotobool." All press pictures were sent to that pool, headed for Allied news clearing houses behind the lines.

Pictures that cleared the censors would travel anonymously over the wires of the Associated Press to local news rooms across the globe.

When Jackson's film reached Paris, it entered the pool. The following evening, his enduring image moved on the wire, carrying an editor's note that read simply, "this picture, received by radio and serviced April 27, is reservised in original form because of its historical significance. It should be filed carefully for future use."

Two days after the link-up, that photo ran on the front pages of newspapers from London to Moscow and Beijing to Oakland under banner headlines announcing



Newsman Allan Jackson, of Oakland, shot this enduring image of the pivotal link-up of American and Soviet troops over the Elbe River

in Torgau, Germany, on April 26, 1945, and symbolize the unity that destroyed

the victorious encounter in Germany. Nowhere in the credits did Jackson's name appear, although he once again beat his entire profession to the scene of the action.

Getting there first was by then a habit.

In 1933, after completing Oakland High School, Jackson left his parent's Glenview district home to attend San Jose State College. Four years later, he became the first of a long string of award-winning pho-

tographers to graduate from that college's journalism school.

Despite the Depression, he found work at William Randolph Hearst's now defunct Oakland Post-Enquirer, where he took pictures, reported the news and rewrote the copy of his colleagues. That versatility was rewarded in September 1942 by a trip to the South Pacific to join the first wave of journalists sent to cover the pivotal battle at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

The Hearst chain carried his photographs and first-hand accounts of that fighting under the headline, "I Lived through Hell on the Island of Death," vividly describing the battle that cost more than 26,000 lives.

With that battle won, Jackson boarded the light cruiser U.S.S. Helena, to cover the Navy's thrust toward New Guinea. At Kula Gulf, off the island of Gizo, the cruiser met a large flotilla of Japanese wa-

photographer to the world



W. ALLAN JACKSON for the Associated Press

in Torgau, Germany, on April 26, 1945. The picture came to symbolize the unity that destroyed fascism in Europe.

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With that battle won, Jackson boarded the light cruiser U.S.S. Helena, to cover the Navy's thrust toward New Guinea. At Kula Gulf, off the island of Gizo, the cruiser met a large flotilla of Japanese war-

ships. In the shelling that followed, the Helena went down.

As his mates celebrated their rescue after several hours clinging precariously to life in oil-slicked seas, Jackson rushed to the radio room of the rescuing destroyer to relay his account of the disaster to an Australian press post for worldwide transmission.

His by-line story in the Post-Enquirer of July 8, 1943 alerted his family to his survival. A daughter,



Steven Lavoie

Kathie, had just celebrated her third birthday and his wife, Bettie, was pregnant with a son, later named Robert.

After a year in the Pacific, Jackson was again blazing trails. He led the press into North Africa, Italy and onto the beaches of southern France. He reached Paris with its liberators and filed images of the raucous celebrations that followed.

After the war, Jackson returned to his desk at the morning Post-Enquirer, rejoining old friends. When fellow photographer Kayo Harris announced plans to get married, Jackson volunteered to drive to Nevada to witness the ceremony. "He was full of hell," Harris's widow Aileen Maddern recalled, "but a good, all-American guy who loved to have a good time."

When Hearst closed the Oakland paper in 1950, Jackson commuted for a while to a job at the Vallejo Times-Herald. But he soon was ready to ship out once more, this time to the frontiers of diplomacy with the U.S. Information Agency. He retired to Pensacola, Fla. in 1970, after 20 years on diplomatic missions around the world.

Despite his journeys, when he returned for visits, "he still showed a soft spot in his heart for Oakland," Maddern noted, although "he was always ready to get back to Florida and his sailboat."

Earlier this summer, at age 80, he showed that his journalistic instincts were still intact. In this case, the news he anticipated was his own death. On July 25, anxious to beat his diabetes and arthritis to their ultimate outcome, Jackson put a gun to his head and squeezed the trigger. He died instantly, two months after his famous photograph was returned to the wires for the 50th anniversary of the link-up at Torgau. This time, Jackson got the credit he was due.

Time Capsule is a regular Sunday feature of The Oakland Tribune. If you have comments or suggestions for future columns, please call 208-6420.

Photojournalist Allan Jackson dies

TUES. MAY 1, 1995

Oakland native W. Allan Jackson, 80, retired foreign service officer, World War II foreign correspondent and university lecturer, died July 25 at his home in Pensacola Beach, Florida.

Jackson, a foreign correspondent writer and photographer for the International News Service, took one of World War II's most famous pictures, the first linking of the American and Soviet Russian

armies at the Elbe River at Torgau, Germany on April 11, 1945.

He served as a correspondent from Guadalcanal to Bougainville in the Pacific before being assigned to the major campaigns of Allied Forces in North Africa and Europe.

He died at his home of a self inflicted gun shot wound after a long illness of circulatory, arthritic and diabetic related ailments.

Jackson, who was featured in a

MONTCLARION

profile in The Montclarion in May, began his career after graduating as the first student majoring in jour-

See JACKSON on page 6

America in Washington from 1959 fice of the May



Famed World War II news-
photographer Allan Jackson.

Placerville; six grandchildren
four great grandchildren.

A memorial service was
held in Castro Valley
July 1, 1968.

Continued from page 5

nalism from San Jose State College in 1937. He joined the staff of the now defunct *Oakland Post Enquirer* and the *Vallejo Times Herald*.

His foreign service with the State Department and the United States Information Agency, as a public affairs, press and cultural affairs officer included tours of duty first in Tehran in 1951, and then in Brussels, London, Saigon, Jakarta. He was an editor at the *Voice of America* in Washington from 1959

to 1962, and subsequently in Bordeaux, France and in Dahomey (now Benin), Africa, and Lubumbashi, Zaire. In addition, he had extensive public affairs assignments in southern Africa.

After his retirement from the foreign service, Jackson worked as an editorial writer and news wire editor on the *Pensacola News-Journal*. He served also as adjunct professor of African politics at the University of West Florida.

He was called out of retirement in 1967 by the USIA to serve as communications officer for the office of the Mayor of the District of

Columbia Bicentennial Commission and the following year was a parttime copy editor at the *Washington Post*. Until his illness, he served as a lecturer and editorial consultant from his home.

He is survived by his wife, the former Betty Thomas Jackson; two children of a previous marriage, Kathleen Beckett of Madison, Wisconsin and Robert A. Jackson of Walnut Creek; and three grandchildren.

Private services at sea will follow cremation. Donations may be made in Jackson's name to a favorite charity.